

Appl. No.: 09/998,682
Rcply Dated: April 1, 2004
Office Action of: March 9, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 109878.126

ELECTION and REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2004. Claims 1-43 are currently pending in this application. Claims 34-43 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-33 are presented for examination.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-33 to prosecute in the present application, in response to the Restriction Requirement. This election is made without traverse.

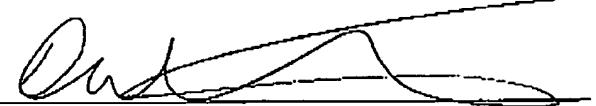
In light of the above election, Applicants request that non-elected Groups II and III, claims 34-43, be withdrawn in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application with respect to these claims.

The claims in the present application are believed to be new, non-obvious, and useful. An early and favorable examination is earnestly solicited. If there are any remaining issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

No extensions of time are believed to be required for this paper to be timely filed. However, in the event that such an extension of time is required, please also consider this paper as a petition for an extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136 for any extensions of time necessary for this paper to be timely filed, and please charge the fee required for any such extensions of time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, that may be due in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/1/2004


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